



GETTING READY FOR KINDERGARTEN

All children enter kindergarten at different levels of readiness, but teachers agree on some basic skills that show a child is ready for school. When asked “What are the most important things that contribute to a child’s success?” most kindergarten teachers say children should:

- Be able to tell an adult what they need
- Recognize basic colors, shapes, and some letters of the alphabet
- Know how a book works – holding it, turning pages, naming things in the pictures
- Be able to count up to ten items one by one
- Know how to hold a pencil or crayon correctly for writing
- Recognize their first name in print
- Recognize when words rhyme
- Be able to use scissors
- Know his or her full name and age
- Understand math terms like “more than” and “less than”
- Be curious and want to learn new things
- Know how to get along with other children, share and wait for a turn
- Be able to pay attention and follow simple directions
- Be able to use words – not tantrums – to express feelings of frustration or anger
- Be aware of other people’s feelings
- Be away from their parents without being too upset
- Use the bathroom by himself or herself

When a child has mastered these skills the transition to kindergarten is easier, and as your child’s first teacher, you can support learning many activities at home. Read, read, and read some more! The time you spend enjoying books together prepares your child for school. Talk about the story, compare the art in different books, point out what you like on a page, and let your child guess what happens next. Reading is something you get to do together, and if you have positive feelings about reading, then your child will too. These skills are guidelines, not requirements. However, you can help your child learn and practice so he or she gets off to the best start. **Remember, Reading Gets Them Ready!**